



June 24, 2019

VIA E-MAIL

Emma Best  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 74285  
411A Highland Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

RE: FOIA Request No. DOC-OIG-2019-001381

Dear Ms. Best:

This letter is regarding your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, tracking number DOC-OIG-2019-001381, received by the Department of Commerce, Office of Inspector General (OIG) on May 29, 2019, in which you seek “a copy of the list or printout or database listing of Inspector General investigations closed/reports completed during calendar year 2018” (*sic*). Your request was interpreted to seek a database printout of investigations performed by the Department of Commerce OIG that were closed during calendar year 2018.

A search of records maintained by the OIG has located three (3) pages that are responsive to your request. We have reviewed these pages under the terms of FOIA and have determined that all of the pages must be withheld in part under FOIA exemption (b)(6), 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), which protects information in personnel, medical, or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, as well as FOIA exemption (b)(7)(C), 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C), which protects law enforcement information, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Two (2) of the pages also reference records that are not responsive to your request.

Copies of the pages are enclosed, with the redactions noted.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of FOIA. This is a standard notification to all OIG requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

You have the right to appeal this determination. Any appeal must be received within ninety (90) calendar days of the date of this response letter. Address your appeal to the following office:

Counsel to the Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Office of Inspector General, Office of Counsel  
14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Room 7898C  
Washington, D.C. 20230

An appeal may also be sent by e-mail to [FOIA@oig.doc.gov](mailto:FOIA@oig.doc.gov), by facsimile (fax) to 202-501-7335, or by FOIAonline, if you have an account in FOIAonline, at <https://www.foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/request>.

The appeal should include a copy of the original request and this letter. In addition, the appeal should include a statement of the reasons why you believe that the determination was in error. The appeal letter, the envelope, the e-mail subject line, and the fax cover sheet should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." The e-mail, fax machine, FOIAonline, and Office of Counsel mailbox are monitored only on working days during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday). FOIA appeals posted to the e-mail box, fax machine, FOIAonline, or the Office of Counsel mailbox after normal business hours will be deemed received on the next normal business day. If the 90th calendar day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal public holiday, an appeal received by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, the next business day will be deemed timely. An appeal received after the 90-day limit will not be considered.

If you have any questions or concerns or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, you may contact the analyst who processed your request, Laura Main, by telephone at (202) 482-5992 or by email at [foia@oig.doc.gov](mailto:foia@oig.doc.gov). You may also contact me, the OIG FOIA Public Liaison at:

Jennifer Piel  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Office of Inspector General, Office of Counsel  
14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Room 7898C  
Washington, D.C. 20230  
Telephone at (202) 482-5992; email at [foia@oig.doc.gov](mailto:foia@oig.doc.gov)

In addition, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS  
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001  
E-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov);  
Telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free at 1 (877) 684-6448; facsimile at (202) 741-5769

Sincerely,  
**JENNIFER**  
**PIEL**  
Jennifer Piel  
FOIA Officer

Digitally signed by  
JENNIFER PIEL  
Date: 2019.06.24  
13:19:04 -05'00'

Enclosures

ALL WITHHOLDINGS (B)(6) &amp; (B)(7)(C) UNLESS OTHERWISE IDENTIFIED

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entelliSQL » Shared Queries » Query Results (Find Cases Closed in 2018 with ROI or Public Reports) »

**Query Results****DOC OIG Case Management System - CMS 1.0.47 - [REDACTED] (entelliSQL)**

Row	CaseID	DateClosed	ReportName	DocType	Disposition	CaseTitle
1	17-0005-I	01/03/18	ROI (Signed)	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	Missing DEC Funds (ITA)
2	16-0036-I	01/18/18	16-0036 ROI Final	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	[REDACTED] (NOAA/[REDACTED])
3	13-0777-I	02/23/18	Signed ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	[REDACTED] (NOAA/NMFS)
4	15-0457-I	02/23/18	ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	[REDACTED] (USPTO)
5	16-0584-I	02/23/18	[REDACTED] ROI FINAL	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	Foreign National Researcher Program / ITMD Access (NIST)
6	17-0513-I	03/01/18	17-0513 ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	[REDACTED] (NTIA/FirstNet)
7	15-0464-I	03/09/18	[REDACTED] Closing ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	[REDACTED] (NIST)
8	15-0464-I	03/09/18	FBI ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	[REDACTED] (NIST)
9	15-0464-I	03/09/18	[REDACTED] ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	[REDACTED] (NIST)
10	14-0209-I	03/14/18	Final Signed ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	[REDACTED]/OS)
11	16-0526-I	04/02/18	ROI-Hardee County Broadband Grant (NTIA)	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	Hardee County Broadband Grant (NTIA)
12	16-1107-I	04/02/18	ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	Burger Beef and Brew LLC (EDA)

**Non-Responsive****Non-Responsive**

15	17-0960-I	04/09/18	ROI [REDACTED] Case 15-0457	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	[REDACTED] (USPTO)
16	17-0960-I	04/09/18	ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	[REDACTED] (USPTO)
17	15-1401-I	04/09/18	15-1401 Esri ROI 12.7.17 Final	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	Esri (Census)
18	16-1260-I	04/12/18	Report of Investigation	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	[REDACTED] (NOAA/OMAO)
19	16-1260-I	04/12/18	Att 1 ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	[REDACTED] (NOAA/OMAO)
20	16-1036-I	04/23/18	Public Report / ROI	Public Report	I - Investigative Case	[REDACTED] (USPTO)
21	17-0802-I	05/08/18	2017-05-19 - 17-0802 - ROI_signed	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	[REDACTED] (NOAA/NMFS/SERO)
22	18-0493-X	05/08/18	Final Report 5-1-18	Report of Investigation	X - Internal Complaint	[REDACTED] (OIG)
23	16-0921-I	05/10/18	Final Signed ROI 5-8-18	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	Spire, Inc. (NOAA/OAR)
24		05/18/18	ROI-[REDACTED]			

ALL WITHHOLDINGS (B)(6) &amp; (B)(7)(C) UNLESS OTHERWISE IDENTIFIED

Row	CaselD	DateClosed	ReportName	DocType	Disposition	CaseTitle
	15-1561-I			Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	(NIST)
25	17-0459-I	06/20/18	ROI FINAL	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	(USPTO)
26	13-0879-I	06/21/18	Interim ROI 09292015	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	SAG Corporation et al (NOAA)
27	13-0879-I	06/21/18	ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	SAG Corporation et al (NOAA)
28	16-1091-I	06/21/18	16-1091 ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	(NOAA/NESDIS)
29	17-1297-I	07/06/18	17-1297 ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	SelectUSA Contract (ITA)
30	18-0090-W	07/20/18	Final ROI Signed 7-18-18	Report of Investigation	W - Whistleblower	(NOAA/NWS)
31	16-1551-I	07/20/18	ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	(USPTO)
32	17-0025-I	07/30/18	17-0025 - ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	(NOAA/NMFS)
33	14-0790-I	07/30/18	Report of Investigation (agency version)	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	CHEC T&A Fraud (Census)
34	14-0790-I	07/30/18	Public Report	Public Report	I - Investigative Case	CHEC T&A Fraud (Census)
35	17-1300-I	08/16/18	2018-08-08 - ROI - 17-1300	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	(USPTO)
36	14-0984-I	08/22/18	ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	Prescient Weather, Ltd. (NOAA)

**Non-Responsive**

38	16-0969-W	08/31/18	Final ROI - Sent to Executive Secretariat and NOAA - 7-23-18	Report of Investigation	W - Whistleblower	Shetler Marine, Inc. (NOAA)
39	16-0969-W	08/31/18	Redacted ROI - Sent to Complainant 7-24-18	Report of Investigation	W - Whistleblower	Shetler Marine, Inc. (NOAA)
40	16-0969-W	08/31/18	Redacted ROI - Sent to Contractor	Report of Investigation	W - Whistleblower	Shetler Marine, Inc. (NOAA)
41	17-0116-W	09/11/18	Final ROI	Report of Investigation	W - Whistleblower	Shearwater Vessel Safety Concerns (NOAA)
42	17-0116-W	09/11/18	Redacted ROI - Sent to Complainant	Report of Investigation	W - Whistleblower	Shearwater Vessel Safety Concerns (NOAA)
43	17-0116-W	09/11/18	Redacted ROI - Sent to Contractor	Report of Investigation	W - Whistleblower	Shearwater Vessel Safety Concerns (NOAA)
44	15-1591-I	10/15/18	15-1591 Interim ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	Japanese Auto Parts Manufacturers Anti-Trust Case
45	15-1591-I	10/15/18	2018-07-20 - 15-1591 - ROI Final (signed)	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	Japanese Auto Parts Manufacturers Anti-Trust Case
46	17-1189-W	10/15/18	ROI - 17-1189-W	Report of Investigation	W - Whistleblower	(MBDA)
47	16-1045-I	10/22/18	ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	Office of Executive Support (OES)
48	17-0902-I	10/31/18	Final Signed ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	(NOAA/OAR/ESRL)

**Non-Responsive**

**ALL WITHHOLDINGS (B)(6) & (B)(7)(C) UNLESS OTHERWISE IDENTIFIED**

Row	CaselD	DateClosed	ReportName	DocType	Disposition	CaseTitle
	17-0021-W		ROI - 17-0021-W (Agency)	Report of Investigation	W - Whistleblower	Alleged Whistleblower Retaliation at North American Security (Census)
51	17-0021-W	11/20/18	ROI - 17-0021-W (For Contractor)	Report of Investigation	W - Whistleblower	Alleged Whistleblower Retaliation at North American Security (Census)
52	17-0021-W	11/20/18	ROI - 17-0021-W (For Complainant)	Report of Investigation	W - Whistleblower	Alleged Whistleblower Retaliation at North American Security (Census)
53	16-0003-I	11/30/18	ROI [REDACTED]	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	[REDACTED] (USPTO)
54	17-1329-I	12/20/18	ROI	Report of Investigation	I - Investigative Case	[REDACTED] (NOAA/NFSC)